

In Congress, February 6, 1778. For the better regulating the hospitals of the United States of America

IN CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 6, 1778.

For the better regulating the HOSPITALS of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA;
RESOLVED, THAT there be a Deputy-Director-General for the Hospitals between Hudson and Potowmack rivers; and that the superintending care of the Director-General be extended equally over the Hospitals in every district, and that he be excused from the duty of providing supplies when the Deputy-Director-General shall be ready to enter upon the office:

That the several officers of the Hospitals shall cease to exercise such of their former powers as are herein assigned to other officers thereof:

That in the absence of the Director-General from any district, the Physician-General and Surgeon-General shall hereafter determine the number of Hospitals to be provided by the Deputy-Director-General for the sick and wounded, and shall superintend and controul the affairs of such Hospitals:

That the Director-General shall consult with the Physician-General and Surgeon-General in each district, about the supplies necessary for the Hospitals, and shall give orders in writing to the Deputy-Director-General thereof to provide the same; and in the absence of the Director-General, the Physician-General and Surgeon-General shall issue such orders:

That each Deputy-Director-General shall appoint one or more of the Assistant-Deputy-Directors under him to the sole business of providing beds, furniture, utensils, hospitals, cloathing and such like articles and shall appoint one or more to provide medicines, instruments, dressing, herbs and necessaries of a similar kind:

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That the Director-General shall frequently visit the Hospitals in each district, and see that the regulations are carried into effect, shall examine into the number and qualifications of the Hospital officers, report to Congress any abuses that may have taken place, and discharge the supernumerary officers; if there be any, that all unnecessary expence may be saved to the public, and when the Director-General is in any particular district, the Physician-General and Surgeon-General in that district shall not appoint any officers without his consent:

That on the settlement of Hospital accounts, the officers intrusted with public money, shall produce vouchers to prove the expenditure, and receipts from the proper officers of the Hospitals, specifying the delivery of the stores and other articles purchased; and the Apothecaries; Mates, Stewards, Matrons and other officers receiving such stores and other articles shall be accountable for the same and shall produce vouchers for the delivery thereof from such officers and according to such forms, as the Physicians-General and Surgeons-General have directed or shall from time to time direct; which forms and directions, the Physicians and Surgeons-General shall report to the Board of Treasury:

That the Director-General, or in his absence from the district, the Physician-General and Surgeon-General shall appoint a Ward-Master for each Hospital, to receive the arms, accoutrements, and cloathing of each soldier admitted therein, keeping entries of, and giving receipts for such articles, which, on the recovery of the soldier, shall be returned to him, or in case of his death, the arms and accoutrements shall be delivered to the Commissary or Deputy-Commissary of Military Stores, and receipts be taken for the same; and the Ward-Master shall receive and be accountable for the Hospital cloathing, and perform such other services as the Physician-General or Surgeon-General shall direct:

That the Physician-General and Surgeons-General shall hereafter make no returns to the Deputy-Directors-General, but the returns shall be made by the said officers respectively to the Director-General, who shall carefully transmit copies of each with his monthly return

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to Congress, and suspend such of the officers aforesaid as neglect this or any other part of their duty, and shall report their names to Congress:

That the Director and Deputy-Directors-General forthwith prepare their accounts and adjust them with the Commissioners of Claims at the Board of Treasury:

That Four Dollars a day and the former allowance of rations be hereafter allowed to each Assistant Deputy-Director, and the Commissary of the Hospitals in each district; and One Dollar a day and two rations to each Ward-Master.

Resolved, That Doctor Potts be called from the Northern District and appointed to act as Deputy-Director-General in the Middle District.

Resolved, That the eldest assistant-Deputy-Director in the Northern District, shall execute the office of the Deputy-Director-General in the said district until the further orders of Congress:

That the salaries of the Hospital Officers and debts contracted for the Hospital of the Middle District, to the time of Doctor Pott's entering upon the office of Deputy-Director-General therein, shall be adjusted and paid by the Director-General, who shall deliver all the public stores in his possession to the Deputy-Director-General, or his order, taking duplicate receipts for the same, and transmitting one of each to the Board of Treasury; and the same rule shall be observed by Doctor Potts with respect to the salaries and debts of the Hospitals of the Northern District and the public stores thereof, which are to be delivered to his successor in office in that district.

Extract from the Minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.